

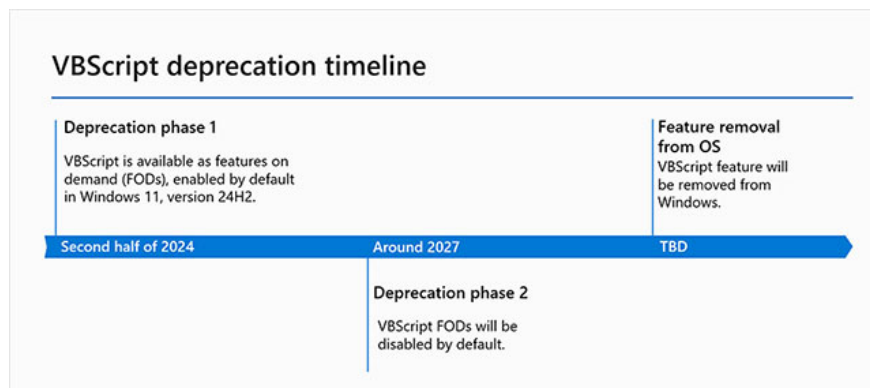
Microsoft may disable VBScript early in Windows 11 24H2/25H2, what to watch out for?

Most recently, Microsoft announced it would be discontinuing support for Bing Search APIs and another Edge feature in favor of more standardized and secure solutions.

Microsoft recently announced that it will be ending support for Bing Search APIs and another Edge feature in favor of more standardized and secure solutions. The company also confirmed major changes to Windows hardware drivers by announcing the end of support for Windows Device metadata and Windows Metadata and Internet Services (WMIS). At the same time, an Excel feature will also be removed because Microsoft believes it is not worth maintaining.

Similarly, the removal of VBScript has been on Microsoft's radar for a long time. The company first expressed its intention in May 2023 and officially announced the end of support for this utility in October of the same year.

It's important to note, however, that a deprecation notice doesn't mean the feature will disappear immediately. Instead, the feature is marked for removal and enters a "deprecation phase" — a period of time that allows organizations that depend on the feature to transition.



In its May 2024 roadmap, Microsoft divided the VBScript deprecation process into three phases. Currently, VBScript is still in the first phase as an optional feature (FOD) enabled by default.

The complication is that, while Microsoft previously mentioned that VBScript FOD would be disabled around 2027 (which coincides with the 2026-2027 Windows updates), the latest guidance post published recently suggests that the feature will be removed as early as 24H2 or 25H2.

Microsoft said:

At the current end of support stage, VBScript is still available as FOD and is enabled by default in Windows 11 version 24H2. Before it is disabled by default in these and future versions of the operating system, it is extremely important to determine where and how vbscript.dll is used in an enterprise environment.

This wording suggests that VBScript may soon be phased out as a default FOD, and explains why Microsoft is sharing new guidance to help businesses transition faster. However, the tech giant insists that it's time to "proactively disable VBScript on Windows 11."

In the guidance, Microsoft highlights four mechanisms that help businesses detect the use of VBScript in their workflows and take the necessary steps to remove all VBScript-based dynamic link libraries (.dlls):

1. Use the official SysMon (System Monitor) utility to monitor and identify VBScript DLLs
2. Review VBScript dependencies such as Group Policy and PowerShell scripts related to:
 1. Log in/log out
 2. Start/Shutdown
 3. Scheduled Tasks
 4. VBScript Call

Microsoft also provides a PowerShell script to scan VBScript files across the system:

```
$pathsToScan = @"C:Users", "C:ProgramData", "C:Scripts" $logPath = "C:VBSScript
```

In particular, the company also provides another sample script to detect VBScript embedded in Microsoft Installer (MSI) packages:

```
Get-ChildItem -Path "C:MSIRepo" -Recurse -Filter *.msi | ForEach-Object { $msiPath =  
?  
  VBScript Custom Action: $actionName in $msiPath" } $record = $view.Fetch() }
```

After detecting the use of VBScript, Microsoft guides businesses on how to proactively disable it using the DISM command:

```
Dism /Online /Remove-Capability /CapabilityName:VBSCRIPT~~~~
```

This command can be deployed in bulk via:

1. Microsoft Intune
2. GPO Startup Scripts
3. Microsoft Configuration Manager

Microsoft warns that after executing the command, any process using VBScript will be blocked and may "error silently or report an explicit error." You can read the full post on Microsoft's official Tech Community page.

You finished reading the article "**Microsoft may disable VBScript early in Windows 11 24H2/25H2, what to watch out for?**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips

and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.
